



Having a testicular ultrasound

You have been referred to the Ultrasound Department for a testicular / scrotal ultrasound scan – a test to look at the testes and scrotum.

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound scan is a non-invasive test that uses sound waves (so high, you can't hear them) to create images of the inside of your body.

Ultrasound scans are very safe and do not use X-rays. During the scan, a healthcare professional will apply a small amount of gel to your skin and use a handheld probe that moves over the area being examined. The gel helps create a seal between your skin and the probe, allowing clearer images to be produced, as sound waves do not travel well through air.

Preparation for a testicular scan

- No specific preparation is required prior to this scan.

But please note:

- Your scan will be performed by a trained healthcare professional (sonographer or radiologist).
- The person performing your scan may be of a different gender.
- As a teaching hospital, you may be asked if a supervised trainee can perform or be present for the scan — this is your choice.
- Please wear loose-fitting comfortable clothing that can be easily removed. You will have to remove clothing from the area to be examined.
- Children are not permitted in the scan room. If a child needs to come with you to your ultrasound, please organise for a responsible adult to supervise them in the waiting area.

During the scan

You will be welcomed into the ultrasound room and asked to confirm your details. The lights will be dimmed to allow the images on the screen to be seen clearly.

You will be asked to remove clothing to allow access to your testes / scrotum. You will then be asked to lie on the examination couch and hold your penis up onto your belly. This is to aid access and keep some stability to the scrotum.

Ultrasound gel will be applied to allow the ultrasound probe to examine the area. The probe will be moved systematically over the area for examination and images will be recorded.

If you experience discomfort at any point, please let the healthcare professional know so they can adjust the pressure, where possible.

Once the scan is complete, you will be given paper towels to wipe away the gel before getting dressed.

Results

After your scan, a report will be sent to the clinician who referred you. They will discuss the results with you and advise on any further management if required.

Contacting us

If you have any questions or concerns before your appointment, please telephone the Radiology Department on 0118 322 7991. This line is open Monday to Friday 8am-4pm.

If you have come directly from a clinic and have any questions or concerns, please speak to your healthcare professional when you are called for your scan.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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RBFT Radiology, Emily McLeish, Senior Sonographer. July 2026

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